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Argentin

ARGENTINA

A primary objective of your visit is to reassure the Argentines of our interest in productive relations. The Argentine government is questioning the United States interest in Argentina because of our readiness to sanction them and the delay in naming a new ambassador. The government is called particularly by our readiness to provide military assistance where our national security is at stake irrespective of human rights considerations but not to Argentina which is, therefore, unimportant to us. The Argentine government feels particularly offended, because they feel their security is at stake. The Argentine government also finds it hard to understand its difficulties after the GOA has resolved eight of nine pending investment disputes and agreed to a civil air agreement after 30 years of controversy. Your visit will be the first of several key visits which will demonstrate that we do attach importance to Argentina. You will be able to point to your own trip, as well as upcoming Congressional trips, and possibly a visit by the Secretary.

A second major objective is to promote human rights. Human rights is a major obstacle to friendly relations. We want to see this obstacle removed and feel it can be removed now that the Argentines have won the war on terrorism, despite the possibility of continued incidents. We think it is urgent to restore the rule of law in order to assure political peace in Argentina and turn our relations around. Your conversations with government officials will offer an opportunity to urge restoration of due process. Your visit to the Supreme Court will symbolize publicly our advocacy of the rule of law.

Another important objective is to encourage ratification of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. In order to promote our non-proliferation policy, it is necessary to get Argentina and Brazil to accept safeguards and forego reprocessing. Someone (either Brazil or Argentina) must take a first step in this direction. It seems possible that President Videla just might be willing to take that step, or so he indicated to President Perez when he agreed to consider ratifying the Treaty of Tlatelolco. You would be able to strongly encourage the ratification of the Treaty in your meeting with President Videla.

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